

My dream is of a place and a time where America will once again be seen as the last best hope of Earth.

With the war raging in Iraq, with the whole area destabilized, his words ring loudly and clearly. My dream, as Lincoln's, is of a place and time where America will once again be seen as the last, best hope on Earth.

The day before yesterday, PFC Joshua Modgling, of Henderson, NV, lost his life in pursuit of that dream. He was 22 years old. Joshua and Army SFC William Zapfe, from Kentucky, both died of wounds from a roadside bomb. They were 2 of the 15 killed within 36 hours, the day before yesterday, in that bloody civil war raging in Iraq.

There is not much that can be said, other than our hearts are with the families of Joshua and William and all those who knew them. I speak for my colleagues and all Americans in praying that every brave man and woman serving overseas will come home safe and come home soon.

#### PASSAGE OF H.R. 6

Mr. REID. Mr. President, leaving that subject, which is certainly a subject that concerns us all, turning to the subject of this morning, around midnight, when we passed the Energy bill, it was a tremendous accomplishment for this body. As I said yesterday when, with the first vote, cloture was invoked, I hope that set a new tone and pattern in Washington, where we can work together to pass things.

It would be one thing if the bill that was before the Senate for the last couple of weeks was a Democratic bill, but it wasn't. I took what was passed out of the Energy Committee on a bipartisan basis, I took what was passed out of the Commerce Committee on a bipartisan basis, I took what was passed out of the Environment and Public Works Committee on a bipartisan basis and put them into one bill and that is what we have been working on. It is bipartisan legislation.

It is too bad some tried to make it a partisan issue. There is nothing partisan about it. It was a bipartisan bill. But some who do not want any accomplishments in the Senate, who resent the fact we have been able to pass minimum wage; drought relief for farmers for the first time in 3 years; for the first time since President Bush has been President, we have gotten money for homeland security, over his objection—we had tried many times—we got \$1 billion; we funded SCHIP; we funded the Government. You know, the Republicans left town and funded the Government only until February 1. We funded the Government until October 1. We passed a balanced budget, even though our majority, because of Senator JOHN-SON's illness, was 50 to 49. Republicans with 55 to 45 couldn't pass a budget. We did, and some resent that.

We have focused attention on Iraq, which has been unfocused for the entire course of that war. We had 80 hearings.

The Judiciary Committee has focused attention on the scandals at the Justice Department, led by Attorney General Gonzales. We have reestablished the legislative branch of Government. The Presiding Officer served for many years in the other body, such as I did. The House and the Senate make up the legislative branch of Government, set forth in the Constitution many years ago to be a separate and equal branch of Government—the legislative, executive and judicial branches of Government.

For the first 6 years of this Presidency, there was no legislative branch of Government. It did not exist. The President ignored it because the Republican-dominated House and Senate gave the President a big rubber stamp. We have changed that, and rightfully so, for the American people.

A number of people made possible passage of the bill late last night, or this morning. Senator BINGAMAN, Senator BOXER. And let me say this about that wonderful Senator from the State of California, Mrs. BOXER. Senator BOXER has one grandchild, Zach. I have watched him grow up. I don't know, he must be 10, 11 years old now. I watched him when he was a little boy crawling around on the floor. She was so excited.

I had the good fortune, my wife and I, to spend a weekend with them in one of their homes in California, she and Stu. They were so excited they were going to have their second grandchild. That second grandchild was born last night about 6 o'clock eastern time. She flew to California and was headed toward the airport, actually had entered the airport, when the vote occurred last night. She was coming back here to be here this morning to take that vote.

She is a real soldier. I so admire Senator BOXER. We came to Washington together in 1982. She was able to go back and spend some more time with her grandson because we didn't need her here this morning, but the vote was that close.

The bill is important. The overall manager of the bill was Senator BINGAMAN. He did a tremendous job. This quiet, effective man—Stanford and Harvard degrees—has done a wonderful job with this legislation, as he does with everything.

The CAFE standards in this bill which we have passed are so important. For 25 years, we have been trying to get increased fuel efficiency. Each time we have tried we have been defeated. People had enough. Senators had enough. We have voted against CAFE standards for too long. We were told they said that if you voted for increased fuel efficiency, we are going to close production plants, we are going to lay people off, we are going to lose market share.

They were right, except it didn't take increased fuel efficiency. They simply became not competitive. Other cars coming into this market that people wanted to buy, fuel-efficient vehicles,

were bought. So we increased fuel efficiency. It is great for this country. It will save millions of barrels of oil every year.

There was legislation that was drafted by a number of people to make this effective. It came out of the Commerce Committee originally, but the people who worked so hard the last few days were Senator FEINSTEIN, Senator KERRY, Senator SNOWE, Senator STEVENS, and let me say, I have the good fortune in working very closely with the senior Senator from Washington, Mrs. MURRAY. She is the secretary of the Democratic caucus. I have worked with her very closely.

She is a tremendous Senator, a tremendous asset to me, the caucus, of course the State of Washington, and the country.

One of the quiet, effective Members of the Senate is MARIA CANTWELL. Those of us who watched her the last 3 days on this Senate floor, making sure there were enough votes to pass the aspect of the bill we call CAFE standards, saw her effectiveness. She, at any given time with votes changing back and forth knew—that piece of paper she carried—where the votes were. I went to her many times yesterday and said what happens if this happens and what happens if this happens? She knew right away.

Senator INOUE, the chairman of the Commerce Committee, reported that out. He worked with Senator STEVENS to make sure that as the matter changed a little bit, it was done properly. I hope I mentioned Senator KERRY's name; I meant to. He is such a believer. He has written books. He is so concerned about the environment.

Words cannot describe how important Senator CANTWELL was in our being able to pass this legislation. Of course, my friend Senator DURBIN, who is the whip, assistant leader, is always around, always helpful in doing things I and others ask him to do, and does so much on his own.

I wish I could express my appreciation adequately to all of the people whose names I mentioned. If I slighted someone, I certainly did not mean to do that. But I have mentioned some names that have come to my mind.

With strong bipartisan support, we passed an energy bill that will grow our economy, strengthen our national security, and protect our environment. If passed into law, this bill will put us on a path toward reducing our reliance on oil by increasing supply of renewable fuels produced right here at home, and decreasing the amount of energy we use in our cars, homes, and offices.

Why do we say it will strengthen our economy? Because especially in rural America there will be biofuel buildings, factories to make biofuels.

We have done things to protect our environment by reducing greenhouse gases and other toxins that are emitted using fossil fuel. For the first time since 1975, our bill raises standards for new cars and trucks, as I have mentioned, from 25 to 35 miles per gallon,

which is really important. That still puts us behind Europe, Japan, and China, but it is a critical step in the right direction and will save up to 1 billion gallons of gas every day. Think about that—1 billion gallons of gasoline every day. I don't know how big a tank a billion gallons is. I do know that we use 21 billion barrels of oil every day in America, 65 percent of which is imported. I know how big a hole that is. It is the width of a football field, 11 miles long and 10 feet deep.

For the automakers still wavering on increasing fuel efficiency, I say this: Do not fight the change; embrace it. There is no reason our automobile manufacturers cannot do this. There is no reason. Others do it all over the world. Cannot we as Americans do it? Of course we can. They need to embrace the opportunity to build the high performance cars and trucks Americans want to buy and drive and which we so desperately need for the sake of our national security and global warming. It is time for American automobile manufacturers to lead the world once again. That will only come through a commitment to clean innovation.

The next part of the bill that passed reduces crude oil consumption by more than 10 percent over the next 15 years by producing more renewable fuels, by producing them right here at home, more renewable fuels on America's farms, fields, and in our forests, which will create tens of thousands of new American jobs.

We set new energy efficiency standards with light bulbs, light fixtures, appliances, water heaters, boilers, air conditioners, which will save half a trillion gallons of water every year. For a State such as Nevada—Las Vegas gets 4 inches of rain every year—that is dramatic.

Because Government should lead by example, we also dramatically improved the energy efficiency of Federal buildings and vehicles, as relates to energy, which will save billions of American taxpayer dollars.

Senator BOXER has a provision in this bill that relates to the capture of carbon. It is a carbon capture study at the Capitol powerplant, and it also requires 15 percent of every bit of energy we use on this Capitol Hill complex—by the way, there are more than 10,000 employees here—that we need to get that from renewable sources.

We need to invest in the technologies that will drive our energy future, such as carbon capture and storage, that hold the hope of containing carbon emissions from producing power sources before they ever reach the air.

Last night's passage of the Energy bill was a great victory for the American people. Here is why: We will save American consumers tens of billions of dollars annually, cut our oil consumption by 7 million barrels a day within 20 years, reduce our dependence on foreign energy sources now, and take critical steps in these early stages of our

fight against global warming. There is a long way to go to secure the kind of clean and safe energy future we need. This bill is a first step, but it is an important first step.

The bill is not perfect. It is unfortunate that in passing this bill the administration and most Senate Republicans blocked an effort to require more of our Nation's electricity to come from renewable sources as well as incentives to spur the production of more renewable fuels right here in America. But this fight is not over. Our friends in the House will pass their bill quickly so we can send it to the President for his signature. But this bill, once again, shows us when we find common ground, we can accomplish uncommon good.

Mr. President, I see that my friend and partner in what happens here in the Senate is here, Senator DURBIN.

I have already expressed, Senator DURBIN, my appreciation for the work you did in getting to the final passage of this bill. You and I spend so much time alone that I do not often get to say anything publicly about you, so I will take a brief moment to say you and I have been in the legislature, on a national basis, since 1982 together. We have had good days and bad days. That is what legislation is all about. But I so appreciate having you as a partner here in the Senate. You have been stalwart. The people of Illinois are so fortunate to have you representing them in the Senate. I hope I can tell you in this manner how much I admire and appreciate your advocacy, your friendship, and the good work you do for all of our country.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The assistant majority leader is recognized.

#### PASSAGE OF H.R. 6

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, thank you for recognizing me. Also I want to thank the majority leader for his kind words. He and I work very closely together, spend more time together than we ever imagined as we embarked on this journey, now in leadership, to try to serve the people of this Nation.

I want to say a word about my friend from Nevada. Senator HARRY REID is misunderstood by many Americans. Because he is soft spoken, and not as assertive as some politicians are, there are many on the outside who question

his leadership capacity. No one on the inside questions it. He is the most highly respected leader I have ever had the good fortune to work with. It is based on the fact that he is inclusive, he is honest, outspoken, and stands by those who are willing to work harder to achieve our agenda.

Last night was a perfect illustration of this. The Energy bill was just a dream, a theory, for so long. The question was, could we put together a bipartisan coalition. We had to find a level of compromise and a level of cooperation or we did not have a chance. It was not easy to try to put into law, for the first time in over 20 years, a new national goal for fuel efficiency of our cars and trucks. It changed a lot of things and was viewed as threatening by many people.

My wife and I have made a point of doing our very best to buy American cars. We are loyal to the American automobile industry. With very few exceptions we have tried to make sure our purchases were on behalf of American workers. It was painful last night to be engaged in a debate where my good friends in the automobile industry, not just management—but I guess I have to be totally open with you, I am closer to those who work the lines, in Belvidere, IL and Bloomington, the United Auto Worker employees. I know these men and women. These are good people. They are hard-working people. They take pride in what they do.

They have been disappointed. I have as well. But our automobile industry in this country has been falling farther and farther behind. Just a few months ago, the CEOs, the major corporate officers of the Big Three came, just a few feet away, and met with the leadership in Congress. I had a chance to ask a question of the CEOs of Ford and General Motors and Chrysler. I asked a pretty hard question, but it was one that has been bothering me.

I said to them at the time: You know, I am one of your most loyal customers. I have owned cars and trucks from each of your companies and plan on continuing to try to buy your products in the future. But I am troubled because of the simple fact—I asked them—I said: Have any of you ever heard of a magazine called "Consumer Reports"?

There was this kind of embarrassed silence in the room. I said: Well, I want you to explain something to me. Why, for the last 20 years, have American cars consistently shown poorer performance results than imported cars? Why have foreign cars, particularly from Japan, over the last 20 years consistently shown better performance results, better trade-in value? Why? What has been happening out there? We have the best engineering schools in the world. We started this industry, at least on a mass volume basis. Why is there such a difference in quality?

There was this pained silence while they waited for one of them to respond. Finally, one of the CEOs said: Well, we are getting better.